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Question of Cyprus

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 11 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 11 December 2001, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 62, 87 and 89, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

11 December 2001

I have the honour to refer to the statements made by the representative of the Greek Cypriot administration at the meetings of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), held on 1 November 2001, under agenda item 87 (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East), and on 21 November 2001, under agenda item 89 (Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects), which distort historical facts on the Cyprus issue. I will briefly respond to these allegations and put the record straight.

The Greek Cypriot representative referred to the legitimate Turkish intervention in Cyprus in 1974 as an "invasion". It should be emphasized that Turkey intervened in Cyprus, in accordance with her rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, after the Greek-Greek Cypriot coup d'état in July 1974 which aimed at annexing the island to Greece. The Turkish Cypriots were subjected to an imminent danger of total annihilation at the hands of the Greek Cypriots and the invading Greek troops.

In this context, the Greek Cypriot representative talked about the "experience of displacement" undergone by the Greek Cypriot side as a result of the Turkish intervention in 1974. The truth is that the issue of displaced persons in Cyprus began in 1963 when one fourth of the Turkish Cypriot population was rendered homeless as a result of the Greek Cypriot armed aggression. Furthermore, in 1974, populations from both sides were displaced in consequence of the Greek coup d'état and the events which followed it. Around 65,000 Turkish Cypriots moved to the North to seek refuge in safer areas.

The question of displaced persons was eventually settled through the Voluntary Exchange of Populations Agreement reached between the two sides at the third round of talks held in Vienna between 31 July and 2 August 1975. The agreement was implemented under the supervision of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

The Greek Cypriot delegate at the Fourth Committee alleged that "the 1974 invasion by Turkey and the forcible division of the island with the creation of a buffer-zone had forced UNFICYP to adjust its mandate". It should be recalled that UNFICYP was established under Security Council resolution 186 (1964) and dispatched to the island in order to prevent the massacre of defenceless Turkish Cypriots by heavily armed Greek Cypriot elements. It should also be recalled that the separation of the two peoples took place in 1963 as a result of the armed aggression by Greek Cypriots and not by the intervention of Turkey in 1974. The creation of the "green line" in Nicosia in December 1963 was necessitated in the face of attacks against defenceless Turkish Cypriots. Similarly, Turkish Cypriots living in the rural areas were forced to flee their villages and seek refuge in enclaves throughout the island. The arrival of UNFICYP in 1964 did not deter Greek Cypriots from carrying out their pre-planned genocide campaign. The carnage did not stop. The Greek Cypriot administration, using its usurped title of the "government of

Cyprus", prevented UNFICYP from carrying out its functions between 1963 and 1974. Peace and stability were brought to the island only after the intervention by Turkey in 1974. Today, the Turkish Cypriot military presence in Northern Cyprus is a deterrent against possible Greek Cypriot aggression.

The Greek Cypriot representative also referred to the situation in the village of Akyar in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus as a "clear violation of the status quo". I would like to recall that the establishment of a checkpoint at Akyar is a step taken within our own territory in the context of the measures vis-à-vis our relations with UNFICYP after the adoption of resolution 1303 (2000) by the Security Council. The area in question is adjacent to the British Sovereign Base Area and there is no buffer zone in the area. The checkpoint in question is within the TRNC territory. Therefore, there is no question of a change in the status quo.

The process of "healing" in Cyprus, which the Greek Cypriot delegate also referred to, can only begin to take shape if the Greek Cypriot side agrees to a settlement on the basis of two states which will ensure that the title of a future partnership can no longer be usurped by the Greek Cypriot side. A settlement on this basis will respect the sovereign and equal rights of both peoples as well as their security interests. As underlined by President Rauf R. Denktaş in his opening statement at the meeting with the Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Glafcos Clerides on 4 December 2001, the basic requirement in shaping our future is realism which must be solidified with an atmosphere of mutual respect, reconciliation and a working relationship between the two parties. We hope that the international community will urge the Greek Cypriot side to respect the inalienable rights of the Turkish Cypriot people so that a settlement and stability in the island can be attained.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 62, 87 and 89, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus